REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 17, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-16 are presented for examination. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 9, 15, and 16, which are the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-14 have been amended as to matters of form only. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,114,837 (*Nakanishi*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,250,548 (*McClure et al.*); Claims 2 and 10 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakanishi* in view of *McClure* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,309,045 (*Suzuki*); and Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakanishi* in view of *McClure* and further in view of U.S. U.S. Patent No. 5,936,740 (*Fukazawa*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9, 15, and 16 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a multifunction apparatus, adapted such that any device of a plurality of types of devices can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control on the attached device. The control differs

depending upon the type of device attached. The apparatus includes transmitting means, receiving means, determination means, and control means. The transmitting means transmits a timing signal to the attached device for acquiring identifying information stored in the attached device. The receiving means receives the identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating a type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device that has been transmitted serially from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal. The determination means determines, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern. The specific data comprises two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information. The control means exercises control on the attached device, upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where the determination means determines that the values of the respective bits of information contained in the specific data correspond to respective ones of the predetermined bit pattern.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are that the apparatus receives identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating a type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device, and determines, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, where the specific data comprises two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different

values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information. That is, if the values of the bits of information contained in the specific data correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, the device is determined to be of a specific type. By virtue of this feature, even if a device has been attached unsatisfactorily due to the incorrect attachment by a user or the contamination of contacting parts with dust, malfunction caused by erroneous identification can be prevented.

Nakanishi relates to a battery-operating multi-functional apparatus to which an inkjet head or a scanner head is selectively attached. When the battery is low, that fact can be discriminated, whichever type of device is attached. To this end, the battery is set to a threshold value that is one value for scanning and another value for printing. As a result, by discriminating using this threshold which type of device is attached, an accurate evaluation can be made as to whether the battery output is becoming too low taking into account the type of device.

The Office Action concedes that *Nakanishi* does not disclose that the identifying information is represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits and that specific data of the identification information comprises two or more bits including different values, and the number of bits are less than that of the plurality of bits.

For at least the above reason, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Nakanishi*, taken alone.

The Office Action cites *McClure* as remedying the deficiencies of *Nakanishi*. *McClure* relates to an electronic voting system. In the *McClure* system, a tablet network controller TNC 50 communicates with a plurality of voting tablets 56 using

11-bit or 29-bit unique identifiers to identify each device. The unique identifier in the *McClure* system is used for identify individual tablets, and is different for each tablet of the same type. Accordingly, the unique identifier cannot be used to determine the type of the device.

Applicant has found nothing in *McClure* that would teach or suggest receiving identifying information, represented as digital information comprising a plurality of bits of information, including specific data indicating a type of the attached device and characteristic data of the attached device, and determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether values of respective bits of information contained in the specific data correspond to respective ones of a predetermined bit pattern, where the specific data comprises two or more bits of information transmitted in succession including different values, and the number of bits of information being less than that of the plurality of bits of information. Al of these features are, however, recited in Claim 1.

Applicant therefore submits that a combination of *Nakanishi* and *McClure*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 9, 15, and 16 are method, computer program product, and computer-readable storage medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Nakanishi* and *McClure* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as

references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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